

AI/ described is a method of notifying a user of the receipt of e-mail by a mail centre, which e-mail is to be transmitted to the user via a first medium, the method including transmitting a notification message, indicating the receipt of e-mail by the mail centre, to the user via a second medium, different from the first medium.--

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and to provide proper antecedent basis. No amendments have been made for reasons relating to patentability, and no new matter has been introduced by way of this amendment. The Abstract has been amended to correct formalities. Full examination and favorable action are requested.

Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference No. 11345.046001).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/4/02



Jonathan P. Osha, Reg. No. 33,986
Rosenthal & Osha L.L.P.
1221 McKinney, Suite 2800
Houston, TX 77010

Telephone: (713) 228-8600
Facsimile: (713) 228-8778

APPENDIX A – MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1[or 2] wherein the notification message includes an identifier of a receiver/decoder to which the notification message is to be sent.
5. (Amended) A method according to claim 3[or 4] wherein the receiver/decoder has a smartcard number and the identifier comprises at least part of the smartcard number.
6. (Amended) A method according to claim 1[any of the preceding claims] further comprising storing information relating to e-mail accounts, preferably at a central location.
8. (Amended) A method according to claim 6[or 7] wherein the broadcast signal is part of a subscription service and information relating to e-mail accounts is linked to information relating to the subscription service.
9. (Amended) A method according to claim 1[any of the preceding claims] wherein the notification message comprises an identifier of the recipient of the e-mail.
10. (Amended) A method according to claim 1[any of the preceding claims] wherein the notification message comprises an identifier of the sender of the e-mail.
11. (Amended) A method according to claim 1[any of the preceding claims] wherein the notification message comprises at least part of the text of the e-mail.
12. (Amended) A method according to claim 1[any of the preceding claims] wherein the notification message is sent to a receiver/decoder.
14. (Amended) A method according to claim 1[any of the preceding claims] further comprising storing preferences selected by the user.

15. (Amended) A method according to claim 1[**any of the preceding claims**] further comprising notifying the user of a selected number of e-mails.
16. (Amended) A method according to claim 1[**any of the preceding claims**] wherein the broadcast signal is a digital data stream.
21. (Amended) A method according to claim 1[**any of the preceding claims**] further comprising transmitting at least part of the e-mail in the broadcast signal.
26. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 24[**claims 24 or 25**] further comprising means for storing information relating to e-mail accounts.
28. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 26[**or 27**] wherein the broadcast signal is part of a subscription service and information relating to e-mail accounts is linked to information relating to the subscription service.
29. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 24[**any of claims 24 to 28**] wherein the notification message comprises an identifier of the recipient of the e-mail.
30. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 24[**any of claims 24 to 29**] wherein the notification message comprises an identifier of the sender of the e-mail.
31. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 24[**any of claims 24 to 30**] wherein the notification message comprises at least part of the text of the e-mail.
32. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 24[**any of claims 24 to 31**] further comprising means for storing preferences selected by the user.

33. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 24[any of claims 24 to 32] wherein the apparatus is adapted to notify the user of a selected number of e-mails.

34. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 24[any of claims 24 to 33] wherein the broadcast signal is a digital data stream.

37. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 24[any of claims 24 to 36] wherein the apparatus is adapted to send at least part of the e-mail in the broadcast signal.

43. (Amended) A receiver/decoder according to claim 41[or 42] wherein the receiver/decoder has a smartcard number and the identifier comprises at least part of the smartcard number.

44. (Amended) A receiver/decoder according to claim 41[any of claims 41 to 43] wherein the receiver/decoder generates a signal indicating the receipt of e-mail by the mail centre.

45. (Amended) A receiver/decoder according to claim 41[any of claims 41 to 44] wherein the receiver/decoder generates a signal for displaying at least part of the notification message.

48. (Amended) System for notifying a user of the receipt of e-mail comprising an apparatus for notifying a user of the receipt of e-mail by a mail centre[according to any of claims 24 to 40] and a receiver/decoder for receiving and/or decoding a broadcast signal[according to any of claims 41 to 47.];

the apparatus comprising means for transmitting a notification message in the broadcast signal; and

the receiver/decoder comprising means for receiving, together with the broadcast signal, a notification message for notifying the user of the receipt of e-mail by the mail centre.

204010-28461001

APPENDIX B – MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED ABSTRACT

A method of notifying a user of the receipt of an e-mail by a mail centre is described, the method including[**comprising**] transmitting a notification message in a broadcast signal. Also described is a method of notifying a user of the receipt of e-mail by a mail centre, which e-mail is to be transmitted to the user via a first medium, the method including[**comprising**] transmitting a notification message, indicating the receipt of e-mail by the mail centre, to the user via a second medium, different from the first medium.[**Corresponding apparatus, receiver/decoder and system are also described.**]

201010-48261001